

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 3, 2008 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action, Claims 3, 7-11, 13, 14 and 19 have been rejected; Claims 4, 5 and 15 have been objected to; and Claims 20-22 have been allowed. The Applicant has amended Claims 5 and 19 and has cancelled Claims 3, 4, 13 and 14. The Applicant reserves the right to further pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation and/or divisional application as well as for appeal purposes. In addition, the Applicant has added new Claims 23 and 24. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled Claim 13 to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 3 and 14 were objected to pursuant as being subjected to double patenting. Applicant has cancelled Claims 3 and 14. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

First Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 7, 11, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,900,081 to Swerer (hereinafter "Swerer"). This rejection is

respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, objected-to dependent claim 4, along with claim 3, have been amended into Claim 19. Accordingly, Claim 19 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 7 and 11 are also in condition for allowance for being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Second Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Swerer in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,526,413 to Muller (hereinafter “Muller”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, as stated above, Claim 13 has been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-22 have been allowed.

Claims 4 and 15 were indicated in the office action to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 (along with dependent Claim 3) have been incorporated into now amended Claim 19. Claims 15 and 19 have been combined into new Claim 23. Accordingly, Claims 19 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this response places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of the application is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated

below. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP

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/Suvashis Bhattacharya/
Suvashis Bhattacharya
Reg. No. 46,554

THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax (408) 287-8040